

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A communication method for limiting transmission rate of data being transmitted from a server to a requesting computer in response to a user's input, said method comprising steps of:

accepting a user request for a specified data item at a requesting computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

accepting, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user request for the specified data item, a user input speed setting, wherein the user input speed setting is not related to a speed that is associated with the specified data item;

generating, at the requesting computer in response to accepting the user input speed setting, a speed indication signal that comprises a maximum transmission rate to be used in transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, wherein the maximum transmission rate is based upon the user input speed setting and is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer;

receiving, at a server from the requesting computer, a request for a-the specified data item;

receiving, at the server from the requesting computer in conjunction with receiving the request for the specified data item, the speed indication signal; and

transmitting the specified data item from the server to the requesting computer, the transmitting comprising limiting, by the server, an average rate of transmission while sending at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link from the server to the requesting computer to be not greater than the maximum transmission rate represented within the speed indication signal received from the requesting compute.

2. (Previously Presented) A communication method according to claim 1 in which the transmitting step comprises substeps of:

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a block size based at least on the speed indication signal;

determining, at the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a

period based at least on the speed indication signal, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link; and

transmitting, from the server in response to receiving the speed indication signal, a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the period.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and receiving, at the server, the specified data item from the remote computer.

4. (Previously Presented) A communication method according to claim 1 further comprising steps of reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server.

5-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the server, from the requesting computer, a new speed indication signal containing a new indicated speed, the new speed indication signal being received subsequently to the receiving the request and during the transmitting the specified data item; and

adjusting, in response to receiving the new speed indication signal, the average rate of transmission while continuing the transmitting the specified data item to be not greater than the new indicated speed contained within the new speed indication signal, wherein the new indicated speed is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the requesting computer.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the server comprises a dial-up server.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the speed indication signal is a quantity specifying a maximum data transmission rate corresponding to the user input speed setting.

23. (Cancelled)